

THE LAW OF THE BAD APPLE



Good attitudes among players do not guarantee a team's success, but bad attitudes guarantee its failure. From John Maxwell's book, *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork*, these five truths about attitudes clarify how they affect a team and teamwork.

Attitudes Have the Power to Lift Up or Tear Down a Team

If you want outstanding results, you need good people with great talent and awesome attitudes! When attitudes go up, so does the potential of the team. When attitudes go down, the potential of the team goes with it.

An Attitude Compounds When Exposed to Others

You can be sure of one thing: attitude is catching. When someone on the team is teachable and her humility is rewarded by improvement, others are more likely to display similar characteristics. When a leader is upbeat in the face of discouraging circumstances, others admire that quality and want to be like her. When a team member displays a strong work ethic and begins to have a positive impact, others imitate her. People become inspired by their peers. People have a tendency to adopt the attitudes of those they spend time with — to pick up on their mind-set, beliefs, and approaches to challenges. In other words, attitudes are CONTAGIOUS!

Bad Attitudes Compound Faster Than Good Ones

There's only one thing more contagious than a good attitude — and that's a bad attitude. For some reason many people think it's chic to be negative. People think it makes them appear smart or important. But the truth is that a negative attitude hurts rather than helps the person who has it. And it hurts the people around her.

Attitudes Are Subjective, So Identifying a Wrong One Can Be Difficult

People always project on the outside how they feel on the inside. Attitude is really about how a person is. That overflows into how she acts. Some common rotten attitudes that ruin a team are: an inability to admit wrongdoing, failing to forgive, petty jealousy, the disease of me, a critical spirit, and a desire to hog all the credit. Most bad attitudes are the result of selfishness. Opposite of selfishness is NBA Hall of Fame center Bill Russell, who said of his time on the court, "The most important measure of how good a game I played was how much better I'd made my teammates play."

Rotten Attitudes, Left Alone, Ruin Everything

President Thomas Jefferson remarked, "Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude." Bad attitudes must be addressed. You can be sure that they will always cause dissension, resentment, combativeness, and division on a team. And they will never go away on their own if they are left unaddressed.

"People may HEAR your words, but they FEEL your attitude." - John C. Maxwell